NEW ABSTRACT

A method of automatically determining a reading of a Japanese word includes for each character determining whether the character is a kanji, hiragana, or katakana character. For a hiragana or katakana character, only one reading associated with the character is chosen. For a kanji character, it is determined whether the immediately preceding character and/or the immediately succeeding character is also a kanji character. If so, an on-reading associated with the kanji character is chosen. If not, a kun-reading associated with the kanji character is chosen.